

GRAND STAIRCASE ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT (GSENM)

MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, April 19, 2004

TUESDAY, April 20, 2004

GSENM VISITOR CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM
KANAB, KANE COUNTY, UTAH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Archaeology:	Joel C. Janetski, PhD
Botany:	Lawrence Edward Stevens, PhD
Garfield County:	Clare Ramsay
Kane County:	Ray Spencer
Educator:	Carol Ann Sullivan
Environmental:	Larry D. Davis
Geology:	Robert E. Blackett
History:	Jerry Roundy, PhD
Ranching:	Que Johnson
Outfitter/Guide:	A. Jean Seiler
Paleontology:	Scott D. Sampson, PhD
Social Science:	Julie Brugger
State or Tribes:	Scott Truman
Systems Ecology:	Paul Evangelista
Wildlife Biology:	Norman Ray McKee

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL:

Dave Hunsaker, GSENM Manager

CHAIR & FACILITATOR:

A. Jean Seiler

RECORDERS:

Allysia Angus, GSENM Land Use Planner
Kelly Buckner, GSENM Env. Protection Specialist
Dennis Pope, GSENM Wildlife Biologist
Laura Fertig, GSENM Botanist

LOGISTICS:

Marietta Eaton, GSENM, Assistant Monument Manager

AGENDA - DAY ONE – APRIL 19, 2004

WHAT	HOW	WHO	TIME
Start-ups: -Welcome & Intros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean All 	5'
- Check in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean All 	10
-Catch up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave Hunsaker 	10'
-Prior Meeting Notes & Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean Seiler 	10'
-Purpose & Desired Outcomes (this may be where we add any other items)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose & Review Check understanding Check agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean Seiler All 	5'
-Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations, Q&As and Clarifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean Seiler All 	5'
-Housekeeping		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean Seiler 	5'
-Roles -Ground Rules		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean Seiler 	5'
BREAK			20'
Monument Science Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Q & A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marietta All (see key points) 	65'
LUNCH			90'
Subcommittee Reports: SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Q & A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larry Stevens All 	90'
BREAK			20'
FEE DEMO OVERVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Q & A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian Bellew All 	30'
FEE SUBCOMMITTEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Q & A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larry Davis All 	60'
BREAK			25'
PUBLIC COMMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Clarify Q & A from committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public MAC 	60'

AGENDA - DAY TWO – APRIL 20, 2004

WHAT	HOW	WHO	TIME
Housekeeping Jean's mixer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present • Q & A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean Seiler • All 	5'
Start ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present • Q & A • Clarify 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean Seiler • All 	25'
Sage Grouse Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present • Q&A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Madsen • All 	60'
BREAK			20'
GRAZING SUBCOMMITTEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present • Q&A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie Brugger • All 	60'
Activity			20'
LUNCH “ Take a Lay Person to Lunch Picnic”			90'
Business Processes -How to intro new items from MAC -How does the MAC incorporate public comment into their recommendations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose new topics • Acknowledge • Check understanding • Propose new topics • Acknowledge • Check understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean • All • Dave Hunsaker 	90'
Ice Breaker			30'
Action Plans & Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List (Actions & Tasks) • Agree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean Seiler • All 	10'
Next Desired Outcomes (next mtg.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean • All 	15'
Meeting Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean • All 	5'

DAY ONE - 9:30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Advisory Committee Members

Lawrence Edward Stevens, PhD
Clare Ramsay
Ray Spencer
Carol Ann Sullivan
Larry D. Davis
Robert E. Blackett
Jerry Roundy, PhD
Que Johnson
A. Jean Seiler
Scott D. Sampson, PhD
Julie Brugger
Scott Truman
Paul Evangelista
Norman Ray McKee

Designated Federal Official

Dave Hunsaker, GSENM Manager

Bureau of Land Management

Harry Barber, Assistant Monument Manager- Biological Sciences GSENM
Brian Bellew, Assistant Monument Manager - Visitor Services GSENM
Marietta Eaton, Acting Science Administrator GSENM
Dave Wolf, Assistant Monument Manager - Planning and Support Services GSENM
Carolyn Shelton, Frontcountry Lead GSENM
Cara Mollenkopf, Administrative Officer GSENM
Allysia Angus, Land Use Planner GSENM
Kelly Buckner, Environmental Protection Specialist GSENM

Public Attendees

Ken Sizemore
Peter Gillespie
Erica Walz
Gwendolyn Zeta
Jill Ozarski
Jack Gisler
Victor Cooper
Tom Forsythe
Jeff Durant

Welcome and Introduction

Jean Seiler, MAC Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance and mentioned housekeeping items. Round-robin of introductions took place. Joel Janetski was excused, but to be in attendance on Day Two.

Catch-up

Dave Hunsaker informed the committee of answers he'd received to prior meeting questions.

- MAC cannot take advocacy stand on issues as a group.
- MAC can make a recommendation as a group about management issues to BLM.
- MAC is to use BLM letterhead for formal communication. Letters to be signed by MAC chair and could be co-signed by Monument Manager as appropriate. [Any correspondence that goes out from the MAC will be discussed with the Monument Manager prior to mailing].

Prior Meeting Notes and Agreements

- Minutes to be approved by consensus. Minutes from January 2004 meeting were approved.
- Timeframe for BLM to send out minutes and other materials to MAC readjusted to allow 3-4 week turnaround.
- Meetings to be recorded and stored on audio CD. Copies to be available to MAC members or public upon request.
- Executive summary of meeting to be produced, in addition to meeting minutes. Executive summary to be brief and only capture decisions.
- Synopsis of committee reports to be produced and provided to MAC.
- Reports are to follow an agreed upon format for ease of quick review.
- BLM to continue to provide Pre-Meeting packets.
- Meeting notes will be referred to as Minutes to satisfy FACA requirements.

Agenda

- In Time column of agenda, also include start times for major sections, not just amount of time allotted.
- Add standard agenda item of New Information/Emerging Issues for Dave to address at each meeting.
- Agenda, with addition of New Information/Emerging Issues on Day 2, was approved by consensus.

Housekeeping

- Refreshments for this meeting provided by Garfield County.
- Kane County to provide refreshments at next meeting.
- MAC members to donate \$5 at next meeting to cover cost of refreshments at following meeting and thereafter.
- Reminder to submit travel reimbursement within 30 days of meeting. If sub-committee meetings require travel, those costs are also reimbursable.

Ground Rules

Same ground rules from last meeting were considered appropriate to remain.

- Listen to understand
- Ask questions to understand
- One person speaking at a time
- Respect one another
- Cell phones and pagers on vibrate

Monument Science Update

Marietta Eaton provided a presentation on GSENM's Science Program. She provided the committee with a copy of the Draft Science Report and a brochure detailing highlights. She explained that some research has been funded by BLM and some has been funded by others. Partnering with other entities will be required for funding future research.

Science Program Sub-Committee Report

Larry Stevens moderated the sub-committee's report on the GSENM Science Program. He noted that GSENM is managed under an Adaptive Management scenario which basically asserts that you don't know if you're doing the best thing, but that you will learn from successes and from failures and make future decisions based on what you've learned.

Larry cited the need to integrate the science being done on the Monument with other scientific research on the Colorado Plateau. He mentioned that Grand Canyon NP has a comprehensive scientific bibliography in CD format with a keyword search function that is a product for sale. He suggested GSENM consider something similar.

Larry also suggested that GSENM maintain a comprehensive administrative history.

Larry mentioned the need to synthesize the 7 E's of species management:

- Extinct,
- Endangered
- Endemic (locally restricted to one area),
- Extirpated (locally gone but exists elsewhere)
- Ecologically important (keystone species)
- Economically important (game species, problematic ones...disease carriers, etc.)
- Exotics (weeds not native to area that take over and cause problems)

Jerry Roundy presented a historic overview of the region as the last frontier of US. His discussion noted the Powell expedition, Jacob Hamblin's involvement, Mormon settlement of the region, and past proposals to designate portions of the Escalante region a National Monument.

Scott Sampson provided an overview on Paleontology of GSENM. Its prehistory covers 200+ million years. All of the dinosaur rock layers are within GSENM. Five new species of dinosaurs have been discovered. There is much excitement about learning

how ancient ecosystem changed. Scott noted that in terms of paleontology, the past and current research is just scratching the surface.

Paul Evangelista provided an overview of some of his ecological research focused on non-native, invasive plant species. He noted that good vegetation mapping is needed.

Norm McKee presented a wildlife overview. Migration corridors through GSENM and adjacent lands are important and require cooperative management with other land management agencies. He noted that this region has historically has been fairly overlooked in terms of wildlife management. Historic decisions about grazing, fire suppression, etc. have had impacts on wildlife. Restoration of habitats could include fire, vegetation manipulation, reseeding, controlling noxious plants, etc. Pronghorn reintroduction has been attempted in Church Wells area. River otter introduction into the Escalante River is likely next.

Fee Demo Overview

- Brian Bellew provided a historic overview of the Fee Demo program as well as the current status of Fee Demo on GSENM. He noted that one of the primary benefits of Fee Demo is that 100% of fees collected go back into local projects. Currently GSENM collects fees at Calf Creek Campground and Day Use Area, and Deer Creek Campground. Included in Fee Demo are also the Special Recreation Permit fees for organized groups or events and commercial outfitter and guide operations.

Fee Demo Sub-Committee Report

Larry Davis presented the Fee Demo Sub-committee's report. He noted that misinformation about Fee Demo abounds. He mentioned that fees must reflect what is provided to enhance visitor experience and that they have been in place for quite some time at GSENM.

Potential suggestions on how BLM could let public know about how fees are used included:

- Signage to list what fees have covered at that location
- Fee envelope could include educational language
- Website language
- Articles in local papers
- Informational materials at designated campsites (once we have them)
- Restroom stall flyers

It was noted that the tone of language is important - seek for less federal jargon and more educational/interpretive message tone.

Public Comments

Peter Gillespie – Kane County Natural Resource Development

- Consider National Science Foundation model with dormitory/do-it-yourself conference center.
- Researchers should have opportunity to present their information to local communities and schools. Utilize web-based programs, seminars, slideshows, etc.
- Local museums could be used for traveling, rotating exhibits about research on Monument; this could include a fee recovery element.

Erica Walls – Escalante Resident

- Noted that she has no issues with charging fees for amenity sites - that these fees are appropriate.
- Referenced Dave Hunsaker's scoping letter about possible expansion of fee demo program to include Monument-wide fees for overnight camping.
- Voiced opposition to new fees. Shared copies of an Escalante Town resolution against fee demo and signed petitions.
- Provided MAC with an information packet about Fee Demo showing opposition to it nationally. Erica noted that new fees are not supported because:
 1. Shouldn't charge access fees to public lands.
 2. Fee demo didn't go through full congressional approval (it was put on an appropriation) and that it is too broad in scope.
 3. Civil disobedience and protests will occur if fees are charged for undeveloped recreation.
 4. Forest Service Fee Demo audits did not prove the program to make good sense fiscally.
 5. \$5000 penalty for violations of Fee Demo is accurate.

Gwendolyn Zeta – Escalante Resident

- Voiced opposition to fees.
- Noted that lands are public treasures.
- Supports agency needs for funding.
- Views fees as double-taxation.

Tom Forsythe – Kanab Resident

- Voiced support for GSENM Science Program and supporting additional funding and noting its benefits, especially for the long term.

Jill Ozarski - Wilderness Society – Four Corners

- Voiced support for GSENM Science Program.
- Noted that she doesn't work on Wilderness issues but rather on BLM Monuments and BLM's National Landscape Conservation System. She noted that GSENM is NLCS's Flagship.
- Jill explained that she works on three key areas:
 - Increasing funding for NLCS units.
 - Increasing recognition of NLCS.

- Providing info and assistance to BLM units.
- The Wilderness Society works with 40 other organizations and lobbies Congress for more funding to allow BLM to better manage lands. She noted that BLM receives \$1.50 per acre for BLM Monuments whereas NPS receives \$18.00 per acre. Group is seeking an additional \$6 million in funding for NLCS.
- Jill mentioned their new website – www.discovernlcs.org.

Jack Geisler – Kanab Resident and Friends of the Monument

- Provided handout on formation of Friends of the Monument group and introduced the committee to the direction the Friends group plans to take.

Ken Sizemore – 5-County Association of Governments

- Ken Sizemore was on the GSENM planning team and helped establish the vision for GSENM. He noted that getting approval for an Advisory Committee was a hard fought fight during that time.
- He reiterated that the MAC is advisory and that GSENM staff need to listen to Committee as much as Committee listens to staff.
- He also recommended that the group look to the early planning documents for some of the ideas that were shared early on as they made decisions.

Victor Cooper – Kanab Resident and Rocking V owner

- Victor Cooper emphasized that embracing the Monument was critical. Noted that getting the word out to the public was critical and that support for the Monument would follow after the information provision.
- He noted that GSENM needed to define a marketing strategy on what GSENM is and that it shouldn't be a secret.
- He said that the word about these meetings needs to be better disseminated in the community.

DAY TWO, 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT

Advisory Committee Members

Joel C. Janetski, PhD
Lawrence Edward Stevens, PhD
Clare Ramsay
Ray Spencer
Carol Ann Sullivan
Larry D. Davis
Robert E. Blackett
Jerry Roundy, PhD
Que Johnson
A. Jean Seiler
Scott D. Sampson, PhD
Julie Brugger
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Allysia Angus, Land Use Planner GSENM
Dennis Pope, Wildlife Biologist GSENM
Laura Fertig, Botanist GSENM

Public Attendees

Ken Sizemore
Jill Ozarski

Housekeeping

- MAC requested they have name tags for everyone during Public Comment portion of meeting.
- It was noted that a better record of who's in attendance at the meetings is needed, maybe a standardized Sign Up sheet.

Sage Grouse Presentation

Steve Madsen gave an informative presentation on the status of Sage Grouse in Utah.

Grazing/Rangeland Health EIS Sub-Committee Report

Julie Brugger presented an overview of the draft grazing report and suggested that it also be shared with GSENM staff, especially the section covering the history of grazing in the area. She noted that the purpose of the report was to highlight rangeland health, economic health, and the relationships between GSENM and local communities.

The GSENM Proclamation states that GSENM will manage grazing according to existing rules and regulations.

Julie noted the three reasons GSENM is conducting the Rangeland Health EIS:

- GSENM Management Plan mandated it.
- Grazing permits have or will soon expire and need to be renewed.
- Individual allotment plans need to be redone.

The Draft EIS is due to be released January 2005. This EIS is unique and unprecedented for BLM because GSENM is looking at all allotments at once. New data collection methods, more sampling, wide representation on the Interdisciplinary Team are being employed. Due to timing, the MAC will be most involved in the Rangeland Health EIS process by reviewing and commenting on the Draft EIS.

Clare Ramsay requested that more detailed economic statistics be included in the report. It was noted that economic analysis data needs to be based on peer reviewed methodologies.

Dave Hunsaker reminded the Committee that Final Reports produced by the MAC will be public and should be reviewed by GSENM staff for accuracy. Also, references within reports need to be footnoted.

Key issues addressed in the report include:

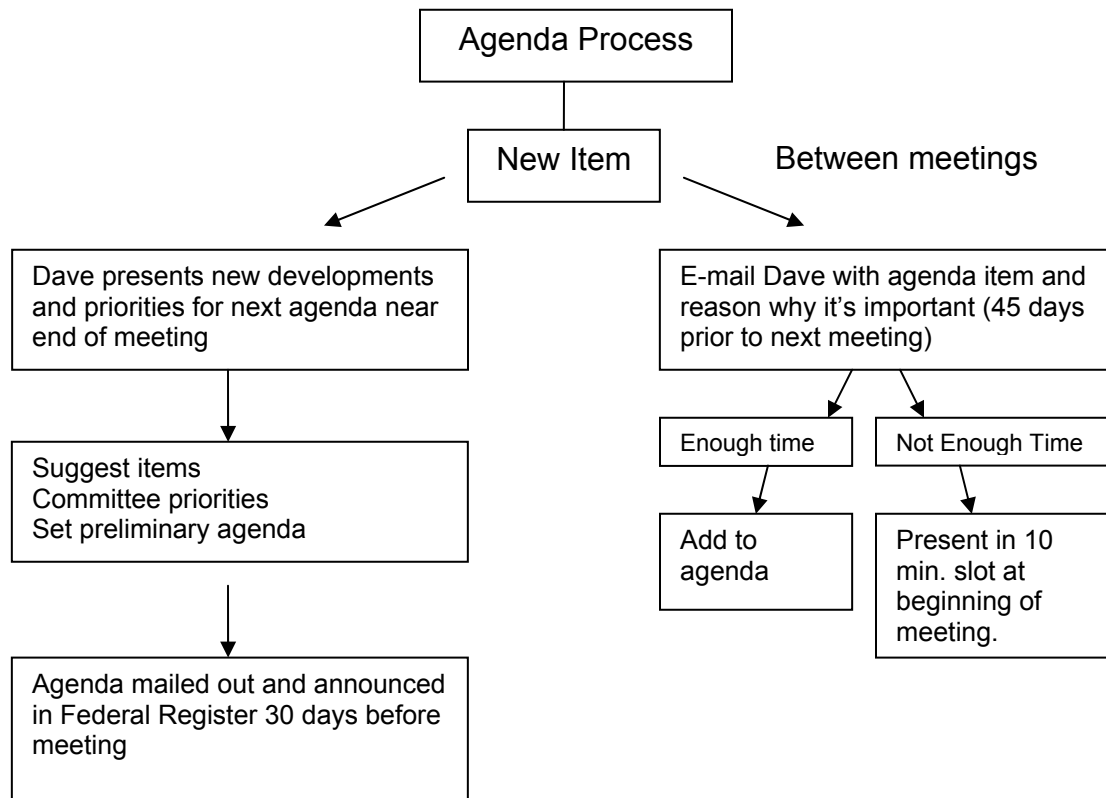
- Communication is necessary. Revival of newsletter.
- Rangeland health issues (i.e. pinyon/juniper encroachment, invasive species, etc.)
- Grazing buyouts.
- Access to grazing allotments and facilities.
- Inclusion of range science in Monument Science Program
- Funding for range improvements.

Business Processes

Additional agenda items

- Addition of representatives to MAC, particularly Native American
- Continuation of Fee Demo discussion
- Permanent sub-committees
- Sub-committee reports production and dissemination
- How to utilize website to receive public comments
- Desired field trips
- Scheduling a meeting with the State BLM Resource Advisory Council (RAC)
- How to formally handle recommendations from MAC to GSENM
- How to clarify priorities each meeting from GSENM
- Potential presentations at subsequent meetings
 - GSENM Transportation Plan
 - GSENM Archeology
 - GSENM Range Program
 - GSENM T&E Species
 - Wildlife reintroductions
 - Weed eradications
 - Sagebrush restoration
 - Friend of Monument progress

How to get new items on agenda



Public comments incorporation

- MAC webpage should have place for public comments.
- Letters addressed to MAC come via GSENM.
- Individual MAC members to refer comments to Dave.
- Monument will summarize public comments for MAC for each meeting as well as have copies of individual comments available for review.
- Committee should not respond to public comments individually, but rather, incorporate relevant comments in committee reports.
- Dave to provide a white paper on this process at next meeting.

Recommendations

- Reserve time (60-90 minutes) at the end of each meeting to address issues that popped up unexpectedly, or to further discuss agenda items.
- Include a standard agenda item for Dave to provide Manager's Update (60-90 minutes).
- Public Relations – Communication - – put MAC meeting announcements and agenda in the newspaper and at local post offices (include subjects and times)
- Issue a press release for accomplishments of this meeting.

Additional Agenda Items:**Addition of representatives to MAC**

- Native American representation is lacking.
- At-large and other entities are not represented.
- GSENM to check on whether or not additional MAC membership would require amending Management Plan.
- Suggestion to include other interests on sub-committees.

Fee Demo Program

- Take public comments from 4/19 meeting into consideration in committee report.
- Sub-committee should incorporate research from other fee-demo projects.

Permanent sub-committees

- Continue as ad hoc committees for now.

Field Trips

- Schedule field trips relevant to agenda topics.
- Jim Bowns range presentation suggested for next meeting.

Potential presentations next meeting

Presentation should be limited to 30 minutes with 30 minutes for questions.

- Jim Bowns presentation on range school (try to incorporate a field trip).
- GSENM Transportation Plan - Status of Roads and Access
- Rangeland Health EIS update (Noel and Dave W.)
- GSENM Archaeology Program

- GSENM GIS basic data information.

Website Comments

- Include link where public can e-mail comments directly to MAC (via GSENM).
- Incorporate Agenda & Minutes into the meeting times page.
- Provide MAC members with draft biographical information prior to loading onto website for approval.

Next Desired Outcomes (Next Meeting)

- Summary of sub-committees report progress. Subcommittees to continue work on draft reports. Draft recommendations for inclusion in final reports.
- Field trip.
- Two presentations out of four choices
 1. Range
 2. GIS
 3. Archaeology
 4. Transportation – Roads and Access
- More discussion of fee demo if necessary. Hold recommendations until more information is provided.
- GSENM budget cycle and allocation percentages by program and function.

Next Meeting and Adjournment:

The next MAC meeting will be held September 28-29, 2004 at a location yet to be determined in Garfield County. On September 28 the meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and on September 29 it will begin at 8:00 a.m.

The Monument Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.